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4 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
5 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

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7
8 STEPHEN LEWIS,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting Commissioner of
Social Security,

12 Defendant.

2:22-cv-02015-VCF

ORDER

[Motion/Application for Leave to Proceed in
forma pauperis (ECF No.1)]

13 Before the court is Plaintiff's Motion/Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1).

14 **I. In Forma Pauperis Application**

15 Plaintiff asserts in his application to proceed *in forma pauperis* that he is self-employed and makes
16 \$800 monthly income and receives \$800 in welfare. His monthly expenses total \$2,625. *Id.* Accordingly,
17 Plaintiff's request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted pursuant to § 1915(a).

18 **II. Screening the Complaint**

19 Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must additionally screen a complaint
20 pursuant to § 1915(e). Specifically, federal courts are given the authority to dismiss a case if the action is
21 legally "frivolous or malicious," fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary
22 relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. § 1915(e)(2). "To survive a motion to dismiss,
23 a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is
24 plausible on its face." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009) (internal quotations and citation
25 omitted).

1 In considering whether the plaintiff has stated a claim upon which relief can be granted, all material
 2 allegations in the complaint are accepted as true and are to be construed in the light most favorable to the
 3 plaintiff. *Russell v. Landrieu*, 621 F.2d 1037, 1039 (9th Cir. 1980). When a court dismisses a complaint
 4 under § 1915(e), the plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with directions as to curing
 5 its deficiencies, unless it is clear from the face of the complaint that the deficiencies could not be cured by
 6 amendment. *See Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995) (citation omitted).

7 A. Plaintiff's Complaint

8 Plaintiff's complaint arises from an unfavorable decision by the Commissioner of Social Security
 9 Administration (hereinafter "Commissioner"). (ECF NO. 1-1). Plaintiff asserts that she is "disabled as
 10 that term is defined in the Social Security Act." *Id.* The Commissioner denied his application for lack of
 11 disability. *Id.* Plaintiff has appealed the decision of the Commissioner to this court, and requests that
 12 this court reverse that decision, or in the alternative, remand this matter for a new hearing... *Id.*

13 Plaintiff may appeal to this court the Commissioner's denial of her application for either Disability
 14 Insurance Benefits or Supplemental Security Income under Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act,
 15 respectively. *See* 42 U.S.C. §§ 401-433, 1381-82c. This Court has jurisdiction over the matter. *Id.*
 16 Construing plaintiff's allegations in light most favorable to plaintiff, the court finds that plaintiff has
 17 asserted a claim upon which relief can be granted. *See Russell*, 621 F.2d at 1039.

18 Accordingly, and for good cause shown,

19 IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is
 20 GRANTED.

21 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Plaintiff is permitted to maintain the action to conclusion
 22 without the necessity of prepayment of any additional fees, costs, or security. This order granting *in forma*
 23 *pauperis* status does not extend to the issuance of subpoenas at government expense.

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court file the Complaint (ECF No. 1-1) and
2 serve the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration by sending a copy of the summons and
3 Complaint (ECF NO. 1-1) by certified mail to: (1) the Attorney General of the United States, Department
4 of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 4400, Washington, D.C. 20530; and (3) Office of the
5 Regional Chief Counsel, Region IX, Social Security Administration, 160 Spear St., Suite 899, San
6 Francisco, CA 94105-1545.

7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of Court issue summons to the United States Attorney
8 for the District of Nevada and deliver the summons and Complaint (ECF NO. 1-1) to the U.S. Marshal for
9 service.

10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that from this point forward, Plaintiff must serve upon defendant, or
11 his attorney if he has retained one, a copy of every pleading, motion, or other document submitted for
12 consideration by the court. Plaintiff must include with the original paper submitted for filing a certificate
13 stating the date that a true and correct copy of the document was mailed to the defendants or their counsel.
14 The court may disregard any paper received by a district judge, magistrate judge, or the Clerk which fails
15 to include a certificate of service.

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17 DATED this 7th day of December 2022.

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19 CAM FERENBACH
20 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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